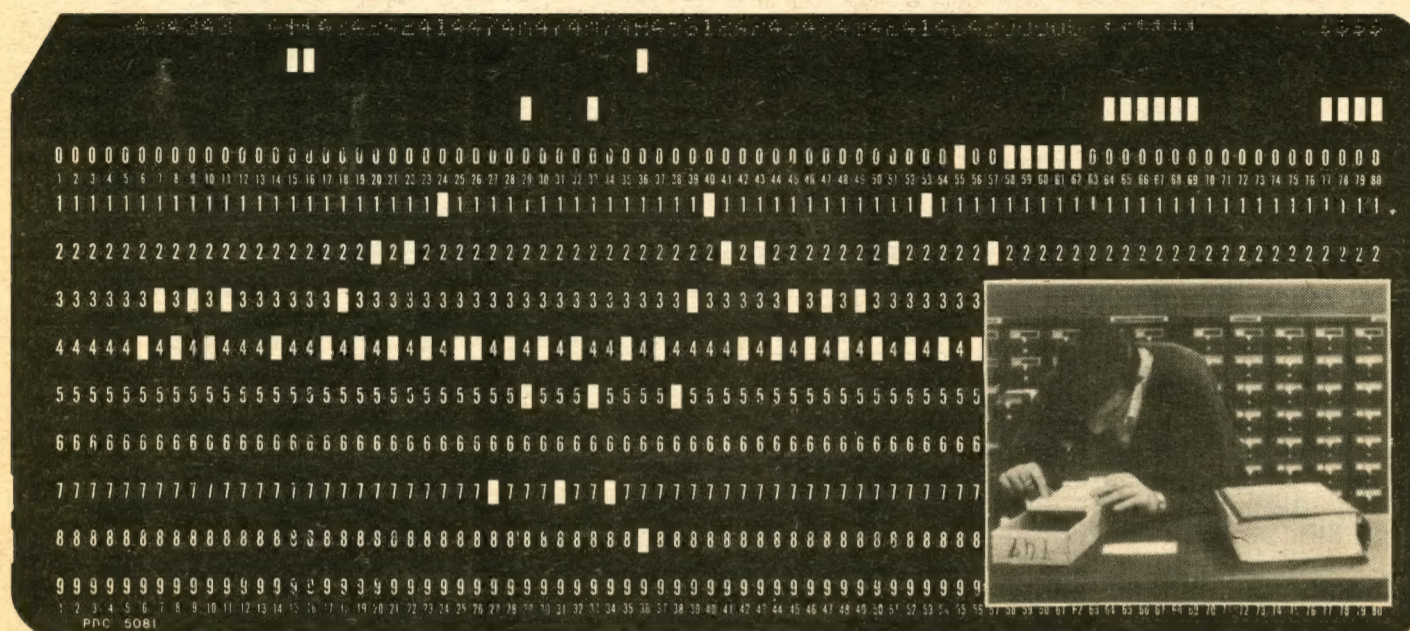


ISSUES & EVENTS

February 11, 1971 Volume 2, number 18

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plugging in libraries for a universities co-op

donald ginter

It has become painfully clear that the period of accelerated growth which characterized higher education during the last two decades has come to an abrupt halt, both in this province and throughout North America. But it does not necessarily follow that universities face dark days in the development of their programs.

What does seem to be clear is that universities can no longer engage in wasteful duplication and that coordinated planning between universities in the province is no longer a prospect for the future: it is a present necessity. It is also clear that the initiative in submitting proposals for coordination must come from the universities themselves, if they wish to play a significant role in determining their futures.

The establishment of a Union Catalogue of the holdings of the major libraries within the city of Montreal is a project which has been under casual discussion in academic circles for some time. Nothing concrete has come from these discussions thus far. The time would now seem to be ripe - especially in view of the impending report of the Council of Universities to the Minister of Education - for the appointment of a major inter-university committee to study the feasibility and cost of such a project. Meanwhile it may be useful to present the major arguments in favor of the project, to indicate what forms such a Catalogue might take and how it would function,

and to estimate what it would cost. It should be emphasized, however, that the figures employed in this article, while the best available, are only approximations based on estimates. They have been obtained from government reports, from library personnel, and from companies specializing in data processing; nevertheless, it must be one of the first tasks of a committee to obtain more precise figures.

The arguments in favor of a Union Catalogue are overwhelming, both financially and politically. We must remember that many of the libraries in the province, and all but two of the university libraries within the city, are highly underdeveloped. The government must be urged to provide sufficient funds to enable each of these libraries to keep abreast of current publications. But the full development even of an undergraduate collection entails massive purchasing of books which are out of print, and it is in retrospective purchasing of this type that considerable amounts of money can be saved through cooperative programs. Even more acute financial and acquisitions problems arise when libraries build research collections in support of advanced degree programs. Let us assume - and indeed hope - that the province will continue its present commitments to advanced degree programs. These programs are located in institutions which are scattered throughout the city and the province. However more convenient and efficient it may be to develop the libraries of each of these

institutions to a level of research capability in all fields, the cost of doing so would be staggering. Moreover, even if one could expect greatly expanded budgets for library acquisitions, the rapid disappearance of antiquarian items from the international book market, and the soaring prices of such items, make it a practical impossibility for each of these libraries to achieve full research capabilities over broad areas of specialization. It has now become not simply financially desirable, then, but even practically necessary for the universities of this province to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements which will minimize the duplication of each other's holdings. But if we are to have a program of cooperative purchasing, then the technical services divisions of each of the libraries must have efficient and rapid access to the shelf lists of the various libraries concerned. Nothing short of a Union Catalogue can provide such access and make a cooperative program possible.

There are alternative forms which a Union Catalogue might take. The simplest form, and the least expensive to accomplish, would be to create a physical card catalogue which integrates the shelf lists of the various libraries and which would be housed in some central location within the city. The shelf lists could be duplicated rather simply by copyflo from microfilm reproductions of the present shelf lists. The copyflo cards could be produced on varying colors of paper, a different

color for each library, thus identifying the location of the volumes within the city. The technical services divisions of the various libraries could move portions of their staff to this central location, and all purchasing for the libraries could be initiated from these offices. It should be noted that the key problem which is solved in this approach, and in any proposal for a Union Catalogue, is linking integrated shelf list information with personnel responsible for purchasing. The solution in this case is found in creating a physical integrated shelf list and in placing it in a central location together with technical personnel. The copyflo estimates for creating such a catalogue have ranged from \$56,640 to as much as \$82,600, depending upon the company engaged and the procedures adopted.

There are a number of serious disadvantages associated with this solution. First, a physical catalogue in a central location is not readily accessible to anyone except the technical personnel who normally work there; the catalogue thus becomes practicably useful only for purchasing; it does not realistically facilitate the location and utilization of library resources by the scholarly community for whose use they have been purchased, and of course the entire justification of a Union Catalogue and of the libraries themselves is that they make books readily available to scholars working within the city. Secondly, a physical catalogue is a dead end project. It does not



leave open any possibilities for more sophisticated subsequent developments in information retrieval. Thirdly, it is probably unwise from an administrative point of view to split off from the technical services divisions of the various libraries an important component of their present structures. It would be both psychologically and administratively advantageous to keep purchasing functions located on the respective campuses, directly responsive and responsible to the

continued page 2

letters

creative writing 2

In his letter published in *Issues & Events* of February 4, Professor Ram is surely confusing the practice of serious writing, the only kind that can be called creative, with technical skill in a variety of communications media. I am only surprised that he did not add poetry and greeting card versification to his list of "writing modes". But what he did propose under the terrifying title of Master of Writing Arts was enough.

To begin with, serious writing is not a teachable subject. Either a person is a writer, or he is not; either he has the urge to write, or he has not. If he has both the urge and the talent, he has no need to attend any pseudo-academic courses. On the contrary, they may easily warp his development, his discovery of a personal style fitting what he wishes to express.

I remember a very wise literary agent telling me in my own student days, "If you want to write, never take a job that requires writing." His warning, which, regretfully, I did not heed, seems to me even more relevant to the idea that you can learn how to be a writer as part of a university credit program. And to have classes or seminars on writing advertising and "juveniles" thrown in, makes the concept even more destructive.

I am left with two thoughts about more fruitful possibilities. First, informal gatherings of writers can have value. The criticism of other people who know how to write can be helpful to the beginner, criticism that is of the practising writer, not the professional critic. There is a danger, of course, of creating a school or group, but it might be worth trying.

Secondly, Sir George might set up an institute in the techniques of communications. This would be in effect a modern version of a School of Journalism, with instruction from such people as television producers and commercial artists integrated with that of professional writers for the media. We might well award such a degree as Bachelor of Practical Communications. But it would be essential that the courses be given by people of acknowledged ability in their professional field, as is the case with the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Commerce and Administration.

Michael Sheldon

from page 1

individual needs of what are in many ways very heterogeneous institutions.

There is a far better solution: a fully computerized Union Catalogue, maintained centrally, but with terminals located within the technical services division of each contributing library. This scheme, like the solution described above, requires that the various shelf lists be recorded on microfilm. McGill and Sir George Williams University have already produced such film, and it is expected that the remaining major libraries within the city will undertake such projects in the immediate future, partially for security reasons. Once the film is available, there are companies which specialize in processing it into machine readable form and in providing the programs and other software necessary for retrieval. The main data bank could be stored and maintained in a central computation center. Updating could be accomplished by sending duplicates of all new shelf cards from the technical services division of each contributing library to the central computation center, where the new data could be added to the bank.

The central computation center could provide duplicate tapes or discs of the main data bank to the computation centers of the various campuses, updating these duplicates on a monthly basis. The cam-

would not only speed up the purchasing process but, even more importantly, would place Montreal libraries in a far more competitive position in ordering the more sought after items on the book market.

If there are any major controversies surrounding the creation of a computerized Union Catalogue, they will probably center on the initial cost of converting micro-filmed shelf lists into machine readable form. The magnitude of the cost can be demonstrated by the following figures, which are based on the title holdings (derived from approximate volume holdings reduced by 25%) of the libraries of Sir George Williams University, McGill University, the Université de Montréal, the Université du Québec à Montréal, and the Bibliothèque Nationale:

| HOLDINGS | | COST |
|------------|----------------|-----------|
| SGWU | 209,400 titles | \$52,350 |
| McGill | 975,000 | 243,750 |
| UM | 937,500 | 234,375 |
| UQM | 88,100 | 22,025 |
| Bib. Natl. | 150,000 | 37,500 |
| | 2,360,000 | \$590,000 |

The cost of computerization at the rate of \$.25 per card is based on a preliminary estimate from a data processing firm which has specialized for a number of

call number of books available in libraries other than their own - a process which at present could require several days of personal effort, and is thus normally avoided. Moreover, if it proves financially desirable to restrict direct utilization of the computer terminal, an inexpensive bound print out of the Union Catalogue could be placed in reference areas of each of the libraries for the use of faculty and students. These volumes could easily be updated at regular intervals - for example, with a supplement each month and a reprinting each year.

It should also be noted that the figure of \$.25 includes preliminary flagging for conversion to the MARC II program. This is a program devised by the Library of Congress for computerization of subject classifications. If a library's holdings are classified by the Library of Congress system, and if its holdings are on tape, the MARC II program enables one to retrieve subject bibliographies: without MARC II computerization enables one only to work with individual titles specified. A growing number of libraries throughout North America are adapting to the MARC II system, and it would be a pity if a Union Catalogue were designed in a manner which would impede our moving in that direction, at a later date. It is not possible at present to go directly to a full MARC II program, even if funds were available, since the various libraries in the city are on different classification schemes; however, all of the libraries in the city are either in process of converting to Library of Congress classifications, or plan to begin conversion in the foreseeable future. It would thus seem highly desirable, both from a financial and an academic point of view, that any computerization programs now undertaken be designed in such a way that subsequent conversion to full MARC II would not involve repetitious costs.

The long term advantages of the creation of a Union Catalogue are enormous and extend beyond the city of Montreal. It should properly be seen as only a pilot project, which will initially benefit higher education within the city, but which eventually - let us hope in the very near future - will tend to tie the universities of the entire province into a functional community. One of the more critical problems of the newer and more remote campuses of the province will clearly be the accessibility of books. If efficient means of transporting books between distant locations can be devised and financed, and if they can be given direct access to a Union Catalogue, the more remote campuses will be relieved in part from the necessity of duplicating library holdings - especially at the more specialized levels - which are already well developed within the city of Montreal. Indeed, as data retrieval processes become more sophisticated throughout Canada and the United States, it may become possible for higher education within the province to obtain remote but ready access to those exceptional libraries beyond our borders which we can never hope to duplicate.

Donald Ginter is associate professor in the department of History.



pus computation centers could provide terminal outlets within the technical services division of their own libraries, thus linking fully updated data with library personnel.

The initial hardware cost involved in this approach are minimal. The project would utilize university computers at present available within the city. The only substantial new hardware costs, apart from machine time, would be the establishment of the terminal linkages between the computation centers and the libraries. Personnel costs would also be minimal, if not even decreased: one trained technician operating the terminal within the library could undertake all of the functions now performed by the myriad non-professionals who laboriously search card catalogues; and he could perform them in a fraction of the time, which

years in this type of operation. The figure assumes that short titles of volumes will be utilized, provided that the title is unique when combined with the remaining entries on the card. It further assumes that the total characters per card which must be recorded will not exceed an average of 100.

While the initial cost is a large one, the long term financial savings are enormous. More importantly from the standpoint of higher education within the province, the creation of a computerized Union Catalogue will tend to transform the present fragmented and, for this reason, relatively inaccessible and underutilized library resources of the city into a unified system. By making the information of the Union Catalogue physically present and immediately available on each of the campuses, it becomes possible for students and faculty to locate and secure the

working women: the code, other concerns

christine garside



The University has been redefined to include 'personnel of all levels' or all who 'teach, study or work' at Sir George. This redefinition is important to working women for two reasons: first it indicates a change of attitude towards the importance of groups such as clerical workers and leaves open the possibility of greater participation in the decision-making processes of the university for these people, and second it allows working women to use the services of the ombudsman in matters of complaint.

If the revised code is accepted it will be possible for anyone who is not already protected against being fired by grievance procedures to appeal to the ombudsman for a review of their case. This is very important for groups in the university such as secretaries, part-time faculty, and lab demonstrators who have up to this time had absolutely no recourse against what they may have believed to be unjust dismissal. Furthermore, it is possible for working women to make use of the ombudsman for 'any matter of concern' to them so that a

secretary, for instance, who believes she is being asked consistently to provide services which are not in keeping with the nature of her job could lodge a complaint against her boss without fear of reprisal.

The ombudsman can also be appealed to in any case in which a woman believes she is being discriminated against because of her sex. This would apply especially to situations of hiring for jobs which have been traditionally open to men. There is also some question of including marital status in the list of bases which should not be used for discrimination and I hope it is accepted in the final version of the code. For example, it is possible that a woman who is not married would be censured for getting pregnant. There must be some way of protecting women against this form of discrimination.

The revised code has incorporated all four of the suggestions in the brief submitted by The Working Women's Association and we are pleased by this. The one remaining concern I have is the pos-

sibility of a conflict of interest. The ombudsman is appointed by the Principal and it is conceivable that a complaint by a secretary against a Dean, for example, would be prejudiced from the start. I believe, however, that we should begin by accepting that the ombudsman will act in good faith in all matters of complaint and urge that he or she be chosen for an ability to relate to all members of the university without regard for their position within the university.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The Working Women's Association has done some research on the possibility of unemployment insurance at Sir George.

At present there is no way that the employees of Sir George can legally force the University to provide this service for them. Sir George is classified as a charitable institution and therefore does not have to provide unemployment insurance for its employees. In most businesses if 51% of the employees request unemployment insurance the business must provide it.

There is a bill before the Quebec legislature which could change this situation. As you may know the CEGEP's are classified as public authorities and do provide unemployment insurance for their insurable employees. If universities have their status changed then it will be possible to apply for the insurance.

At present it is also impossible for some members of the business or institution to receive insurance and not others. One of the few exceptions to this is McGill where some employees had been receiving unemployment insurance before the present act came into effect so that they were allowed to continue receiving it. In most places, however, either all employees take part or none. The Bill at present before the legislature would change this so that once more some could receive it without the whole institution having to be involved.

The Working Women's Association has decided therefore to wait until the new Bill is either passed or rejected before taking any more action on the problem of unemployment insurance. It is our feeling from informal discussions with many secretaries and clerical workers that they would be interested in receiving the benefits of unemployment insurance even though they have to pay up to a maximum of \$1.40 a week (for those who earn over \$100 a week). In any event we will keep you informed about this.

MATERNITY LEAVE

One of the topics which greatly interests our organization is maternity leave. At present, the university has a hodgepodge of policies ranging from a situation where a full-time faculty can take off any time needed to have a baby if she has a nice boss, to a situation where a clerical worker would have to leave her job indefinitely for the same thing.

We are interested in getting a clear and consistent policy formulated which would include a definite amount of time off with pay and guaranteed return to the job at the same level of seniority.

If you are interested in helping us work on this or other projects directly related to women working at Sir George, come to our meetings the first and third Tuesday of every month in H-617 at 12:30 and join our association. We need you and you need us.

The above was submitted on behalf of the Working Women's Association. Christine Garside is assistant professor of philosophy.

academic awards

GRADUATE AWARDS

CANADA - BRITAIN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION. Postgrad scholarship in the Humanities tenable in the U.K. Deadline: Feb. 15.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY. Rutherford scholarship for experimental research in the Natural Sci. Deadline: Feb. 15.

ONTARIO DEPT. OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS. Grad fellowships. Deadline: Feb. 15.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS. Tenable in India. Deadline: Feb. 15.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. Grad fellowships for C.A.'s. Deadline: Feb. 28.

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTES FOR TRAINING & RESEARCH (UNITAR). Internship program for research interns (Economics & Social Sci.) No specified deadline.

CANADA DEPT. OF LABOUR. Grants in aid of research on the economic, industrial relations, social, etc. aspects of labour. Deadline: Feb. 28.

CANADA EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION. Research Fellowships tenable at the Disaster Research Center, Ohio State U. Deadline: Mar. 1.

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING. Grad fellowships in Urban & Regional Affairs. Deadline: Mar. 1.

STEEL CO. OF CANADA. Grad research fellowships in metallurgy. Deadline: Mar. 1.

BELL CANADA. Centennial Fellowships. Deadline: Mar. 1.

MACKENZIE KING TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIPS. In International or Industrial Relations tenable in the U.S. or U.K. Deadline: Mar. 1.

MACKENZIE KING SCHOLARSHIPS. Deadline: Mar. 1.

DEPT. OF NATIONAL DEFENCE. Scholarship Program in military or strategic studies. Deadline: Mar. 1.

GULF OIL CANADA. Grad fellowships. Deadline: Mar. 1.

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA. Bilingual Exchange Scholarships. Deadline: Mar. 1.

TAYLOR STATEN MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP. In studies related to youth services. Deadline: Mar. 1.

AMERICAN PODIATRY ASSOC. Scholarships in Podiatry tenable in the U.S. Deadline: Mar. 1.

FACULTY AWARDS

A.C.L.S. Grants for summer research in linguistics. Deadline: Feb. 15.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY. Rutherford scholarship for experimental research in the Natural Sci. Deadline: Feb. 15.

SAMUEL BRONFMAN FOUNDATION. Seagram Business Faculty Awards. Deadline: Feb. 15.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. Grad fellowships and research grants for C.A.'s who are on Univ. staff. Deadline: Feb. 28.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR & SCIENCE ENGINEERING. Postdoctoral research fellowships. Deadline: Feb. 28.

CANADA DEPT. OF LABOUR. Grants in aid. Deadline: Feb. 28.

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING & RESEARCH (UNITAR). Internship program for visiting scholars. No specified deadline.

For more information and application forms if available see Guidance Information Center, H-440-1.

ALL THIS AND CANDY TOO: \$1.50 buys \$40 million worth of Cleopatra plus four other recent flicks this Sunday from noon to 11 p.m. in H-110.

SGWU / THIS WEEK



thursday 11

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Meeting at 1 p.m. in H-762.

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: "Le Silence est d'Or" (René Clair, 1947) with Maurice Chevalier, François Périer and Dany Robin at 7 p.m.; "La Beauté du Diable" (René Clair, 1949) with Michel Simon, Gérard Philipe, Paolo Stoppa and Raymond Cordy at 9 p.m. in H-110. English subtitles. 50c for students. 75c non-students.

GALLERY I and WEISSMAN GALLERY: "45° 30'N - 73° 36'W", new art concerned with concept, process, system, through February 17.

GALLERY II: "Quebec in Colour" - collection of photographs by Henri Durand on loan from the National Gallery, through February 15.

GEORGIAN PLAYERS: Ann Jellicoe's "The Sport of My Mad Mother" at 2:30 p.m. in the Douglass Burns Clarke Theatre; \$1.50 for students, \$2 non-students.

SIR GEORGE STUDENT MOVEMENT: Meeting 11:45 - 1 p.m. in H-635.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY: Prof. H.M. Angell, chairman-elect of Political Science, speaks on "Quebec Politics in the Quiet Revolution" at 4 p.m. in H-920.

BIOLOGY CLUB: Meeting 1 - 2 p.m. in H-420.

GEORGIAN CHRISTIANS: Meeting 12 - 1 p.m. in H-615.

friday 12

DAY CLASSES CANCELLED (EXCEPT LABS)

WINTER CARNIVAL: Ski Day at St-Sauveur with racing, jumping, sliding and snowmobiling; buses leave 7:45, 8:15, 8:45, 9:15, 9:30 a.m. and cost \$2.50 return; tow tickets are \$1.50, evening entertainment \$1.

PHILOSOPHY COUNCIL: Meeting at 10:30 p.m. in H-769.

E.S.A. FILM: "The Arrangement" with Kirk Douglas at 8:30 p.m. in H-110 for 99c.

GEORGIAN SNOOPIES: New ground school for private pilots with free professional instruction in DOT approved course, "hangar flying" following: 8:30 p.m. in H-635 or phone 672-7480.

GEORGIAN PLAYERS: "The Sport of My Mad Mother" at 8:30 p.m. in the Douglass Burns Clarke Theatre; \$1.50 for students, \$2 non-students.

COMMERCE FACULTY COUNCIL: Meeting at 2 p.m. in H-769.

CHINESE GEORGIANS: Party 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. in H-651

saturday 13

E.S.A. FILM: "The Damned" with Dirk Bogarde at 8:30 p.m. in H-110 for 99c.

WINTER CARNIVAL: Carnival Ball 8:30 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, \$5.50 per couple.

E.S.A. COUNCIL: Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in H-769; all evening students are invited.

sunday 14

WINTER CARNIVAL: Massive dose of films in H-110 from noon to 11 p.m. - afternoon films are "Prudence and the Pill", "Goodbye Columbus", and "The Fox"; evening features "Candy" and "Cleopatra". Prices are 99c for the afternoon, 99c for the evening and \$1.50 for the whole thing (a best buy).

monday 15

WITHDRAWALS: Last day for academic withdrawal from full courses and second term half courses.

WINTER CARNIVAL: Laurentide Festival (how not to drop big bread in student-sponsored entertain-

ment) with Jesse Winchester and The Bells at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria for 99c.

BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES: Meeting at 2 p.m. in H-769.

CO-OPERATIST CLUB: General meeting 5 - 6 p.m. in H-365.

tuesday 16

ARTS FACULTY COUNCIL: Continuation of Friday 12 meeting at 4 p.m. in H-769.

CIVILIZATION: The highly acclaimed colour series by Sir Kenneth Clark is being presented twice each Tuesday; today "The Hero as Artist" (Papal Rome in the early XVIth century) 1 - 2 p.m. and 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. in H-435; free.

GEORGIAN PLAYERS: "The Sport of My Mad Mother" at 8:30 p.m. in the Douglass Burns Clarke Theatre; \$1.50 for students, \$2 non-students.

wednesday 17

S.G.W.U. EDUCATION PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: Prof. Gary Boyd speaks on "Educational Cybernetics" at 8:15 p.m. in H-937.

GALLERY II: Prints by Irene Whittome, through March 6.

GEORGIAN PLAYERS: "The Sport of My Mad Mother" at 8:30 p.m. in the Douglass Burns Clarke Theatre; \$1.50 for students, \$2 non-students.

AFRICAN SOCIETY: Dr. Y.S.M. Abdulai, McGill, lectures on "Which Way for Africa, Socialism or Capitalism" at 4 p.m. in H-635.

HILLEL: Birth control discussion with Donna Cherniak, editor of McGill's birth control handbook, 1 p.m., 2130 Bishop.

notices

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL: Carnival '71 dance, with Exponians steel band and prizes for best disguises, will be held in the cafeteria Saturday, February 20. Tickets are \$3.50 in advance through Food Services.

GRAD TESTS: Students writing the April 3 Graduate Business Admission test or the April 2 Dental Aptitude test can get application forms now in the Guidance Information Center, H-440-1.

ISSUES & EVENTS

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